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COLUMBIA COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

There is no more favorable spot on the Pacific coast than is Columbia County. A reading of the facts in the Mist, which statement carried all the time and is based on actual facts, shows that there are thousands of acres of good land in the county which only await some industrious settlers to make into profitable farms. Land which is covered with brush and which can be cleared at reasonable prices can be made into homes and farms which will make industrious persons independent within a very few years.

Already hundreds of such people have arrived and the products from the farms cleared and operated by them is ample proof of the statement. With the best climate in the world, where there is just enough sunshine and rain mixed to insure crops every year without the aid of irrigation and with transportation facilities that could not be excelled, the local markets and to the markets of the world, with soil that will produce great quantities of almost any kind of vegetable needed, and of a quality that cannot be excelled. There is no reason why Columbia County should not be what is originally intended to be, a garden spot of the Pacific coast. As an extra inducement to settlers on logged off land it is well to consider that the county is full of lumber mills of various sizes and other factories, and industries which furnish sufficient employment to men clearing a piece of land to enable them to live comfortably and enjoy life while their property is becoming valuable. If the facts of Columbia County were known to the world as they are to the residents who are already here and who have proved what it is, it would be a very short time until the available lands which would produce wheat, grains and grasses, would be under cultivation and instead of supporting a population of 15,000 there would be at least 50,000 contented and prosperous people within the boundaries.

The time is fast coming when these facts will become known. The time is almost here when desirable immigrants will be attracted to this county. The day is dawning already in Columbia County will come into its own and will be known and proven to be the best county in Oregon. We who are living here now have an abiding faith in the future greatness of our county and we are willing to see others come to share with us the fruits of this great community, for there is room for many more.

A PUBLIC NECESSITY
 It may be that the Workmen's Compensation Law in Oregon is imperfect and will require much doctoring and many amendments before it will be giving the satisfaction to all that is expected of it. It may be that before the time comes when this law will be perfect that it will meet the requirements of the industrial life of the state, a number of employers and employees will have become satisfied and will denounce it as a failure. It may be that the present law will be a failure, but that such a law was a great necessity to the industrial life of Oregon is apparent to every person who has given the matter any consideration. As a matter of fact unless the present law is a success, or some other law enacted that will be successful, the business of Oregon is doomed. There is of necessity much danger to the life and limb of workmen employed in the various manufacturing plants of Oregon. The very nature of the work around the saw mills, logging camps, road construction, and other building and manufacturing operations, carries with it danger at all times. There is no possible way of avoiding accidents. Nearly every employer has done and is doing everything in his power to minimize the danger attending the workman and yet there is hardly a day when workmen are injured or killed while doing their daily work. Regardless of who is to blame, the employer or employee, the present operation of people feel that the injured workman or the family of a deceased workman is entitled to compensation from the employer. The employer as a rule also recognizes this, but conditions have taken such a severe turn along this line that unless some relief is afforded the manufacturer and employer of labor by a compensation law of the kind, industries must cease. They cannot stand the strain and drain of damage suits and the awarding of large sums of money for

the injury and death to workmen that the present day juries vote. The manufacturing industries of today are working on a small margin of profit. The present industrial conditions, whether caused from the Democratic policies of the government or from some other cause, are anything but favorable to the manufacturer. A community which has manufacturing concerns furnishing employment to its workmen, is fortunate if that employment continues. There is a tendency on the part of many concerns to close down until business conditions get better, but for the great amount of money invested in the plants and the necessity for continual operations, every concern is doing all it can to keep up working even though sometimes at a loss. With such conditions confronting the manufacturer it is absolutely necessary that some protection be afforded them by a reasonable compensation law.

Saw mill and manufacturing plants nowadays are doing well to keep the balance on the right side of the ledger and while they are willing and anxious to make reasonable contributions for the injured workmen and the relatives of killed employees, they are not in such prosperous condition as will warrant them in providing fat fees for personal injury lawyers.

 At the meeting of the City Council some weeks ago a resolution was passed whereby a Portland firm of attorneys was employed to draft a new charter for St. Helens at an agreed price of \$250. At the meeting of the County Court held last week in St. Helens an order was made employing an attorney from Astoria to advise with and assist the District Attorney in matters concerning the road affairs of the county. Just why it was necessary for the City to go to Portland to secure the services of attorneys with a Mayor who is a practicing attorney and a City Attorney who has had considerable experience in municipal work or why the County Court should go way down to Astoria to secure the services of an attorney when we have a County Attorney and the county affords a bar of about 14 lawyers, is not known. With such proceedings it would seem about time for some of the other fellows to take in a side line such as editing a paper or soliciting insurance or selling real estate.

VOTER STRAIGHT

It will soon be time for us to begin talking and writing about politics. There is an election to be held in Oregon in November at which time state and county officers will be elected and every voter will be called upon to become a lawmaker for the ballot will be filled with laws of all sorts to be voted on. Every indication at this time points to a Republican year. The ticket as nominated by that party is a good one. The leaders of the ticket are men of proven worth and ability, both in public and private life. The same may be said of the candidates on the Democratic ticket, but this election is to be one of policies rather than of men, for the men are all good ones. Mr. Booth has demonstrated to the people of Oregon that he is a successful business man and an able and conscientious public officer.

He stands for the policies of the Republican party, the party that has always been in power when the country and the people were prosperous. He has the interests of Oregon at heart for he is heavily interested in the business of the state. He knows what we need to keep our factories running, our products to sell, our workmen to be employed and our wages to be kept at such a figure that the laborer can live and prosper.

Dr. Withycombe is one of the most clean, able and progressive men in Oregon. No one with any regard for the truth can say aught against him. He stands for all that is just and right in public affairs and will keep his pledge to reduce the taxes of the state at large by following a strictly business policy in state matters. The other nominees of the party are men of large calibre and fully competent to perform the duties of the officers to which they have been nominated.

It is up to every man and woman voter in Oregon, who is a believer in Republican principles, to vote the ticket straight. What applies to the candidates on the state ticket applies with equal force to the nominees for the county offices. If political parties are to be perpetuated and to mean anything, republicans should vote for republicans when the candidates are men of ability and integrity, such as is the case this year in Columbia County. This is the proper time to be a Republican too; the Democrats have been in absolute control of the Government for a year and a half and there is no disputing the fact that business conditions are getting worse every day. Labor is scarce, wages are being cut, products of factories and farm are lower in price, and the cost of living to the consumer steadily goes on its upward journey. These are facts and all the fine technical arguments that may be produced cannot change them.

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This cash investment of the operating railways of Class I of the Eastern District during these six years was greater than the amount of capital securities issued by them during this period, and was 19.9 per cent of the aggregate of their capital securities outstanding June 30, 1913; of the railways of the same class of the Southern District it was 21.1 per cent, and of the railways of the same class of the Western District it was 23.2 per cent of the aggregate of their capital securities outstanding June 30, 1913. That is, the cash actually expended by these railways during the last six years upon their properties used in transportation amounts to more than one-fifth of their total capitalization at the close of the last fiscal year. This is at the rate of \$668,397,551 per year.

These figures are obtained through a compilation made by the Bureau of Railway Economics from the reports of their railways to the Interstate Commerce Commission, and have not heretofore been collated.

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